

# Iowa Area Development Group Community Foundation

## “A Partner in Progress” 2021 Annual Report



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## **A MESSAGE TO OUR *Friends AND Partners***

Over fifteen years ago Iowa Area Development Group (IADG) directors, staff, and rural policy leaders began discussing and assessing the status of foundations and community-based philanthropy in Iowa. Our research uncovered a glaring absence of philanthropic tools and capacity, particularly in small communities and rural areas.

By 2003, the Iowa Area Development Group Community Foundation had been formally established. The organization became the first community foundation in Iowa with a statewide geographic commitment. Today the Foundation remains uniquely committed to a philanthropic mission focused on economic development, community betterment, civic leadership, entrepreneurship and philanthropy.

Our work at IADG Community Foundation remains a work in progress. Our philanthropic journey continues to evolve so that we can better meet the needs of communities, counties and the non-profit sector throughout rural Iowa.

### **2021 in Review**

In 2021, the Iowa Area Development Group Community Foundation once again dedicated its time and resources largely to helping others. Working with the Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines through our Iowa Community Affiliate Network (Iowa C.A.N.) the Foundation continued to provide philanthropic education, marketing and development services.

This year seven additional counties chose to join Iowa C.A.N. with their affiliation and our partnership with the Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines we are now assisting and supporting 38 countywide community foundations. Our collaboration helps make possible a rich library of development tools, as well as monthly training sessions offering affiliate networking, training, and sharing opportunities.

By mid-year, affiliate county assets had grown to over \$162 million and foundation contributions had eclipsed \$22 million. Most pleasingly, affiliates had strengthened their communities and non-profits with over \$7 million in grants! Working together, they provided over \$1 million to derecho and pandemic relief efforts.

When the IADG Community Foundation wasn't busy helping Iowa C.A.N. members, it was busy working to grow its own assets and grantmaking. During 2021, IADG Community Foundation assets grew to over \$2.5 million.

A noteworthy number of gifts to the IADG Community Foundation have been "Gifts of Honor" and "Gifts of Memory". We are truly appreciative of the many contributions celebrating and honoring those who have given so much to rural Iowa. These people are honored both on our website, and in a memorial book at our headquarters.



IADG Community Foundation assets have grown to a point where more impactful grantmaking is possible. The Foundation authorized 15 grants totaling \$68,350 in 2021. Since inception the Foundation has awarded 248 grants that have totaled \$639,976. Our grantmaking has allowed us to help other foundations and to advance entrepreneurship, community beautification, leadership training and economic development.

Following the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of Iowa Area Development Group, IADG Community Foundation joined IADG in establishing a “Silver Shovel” community and economic development leadership recognition program. The Foundation agreed to honor the work of each recipient organization with a \$1,000 grant to strengthen local non-profit activities

We are proud that the Foundation has bestowed over \$25,000 in community grants through the Silver Shovel recognition program. Our grants have provided the seed for leadership development programs, workforce preparedness, community betterment, technology investment and more.

In 2016, a new grant program called “Partners in Progress” was launched at the Iowa Area Development Group “Partners Forum.” This unique grant program is aimed at replicating rural success stories. Three unique initiatives aimed at rural housing, workforce development, and population attraction were awarded \$30,000 in fiscal year 2017. An additional Partners in Progress grant was also awarded in 2017 for \$8,000 for a feasibility study conducted for a school conversion to housing project. In 2018 another Partners in Progress grant was awarded for \$10,000 to the Bricker Price restoration project in Earlham. The past three years the Foundation has awarded major grants to the Iowa Rural Development Council to advance the work of the Council, sponsor the Iowa Rural Summit, and support the Governor’s Empower Rural Iowa Initiative.

In collaboration with Iowa rural electric cooperatives and independent telephone companies the IADG Community Foundation is also helping the Delta Dental of Iowa Foundation recruit and place dentists throughout rural Iowa. Through a unique program called FIND, or Fulfilling Iowa’s Need for Dentists, over 55 dentists have started practices in rural Iowa.

Among our Foundations grants in 2021 were a number of outstanding initiatives. These awards included: funding for an Iowa dairy industry economic impact study, scholarship funding for the Iowa poultry industry, revolving loan fund training workshops, economic development conferences, and entrepreneurship program support. The Foundation also helped the Iowa Small Business Development Center establish a new program for Rural Business Innovators and supported the implementation of a “Heart and Soul” program for IADG partners. The Foundation also continued to help sponsor the Okoboji Entrepreneurial Institute.



IADG Community Foundation continues its philanthropy efforts without paid staff and with the leadership and support of a volunteer board of directors. The generousness of many people and organizations is allowing IADG Community Foundation to grow its commitment to philanthropy and to be a “Partner in Progress” for Iowa’s rural communities.

The Foundation invites you to learn more about supporting our work by visiting our website at [www.iadg.com/foundation](http://www.iadg.com/foundation). Inquiries related to grantmaking opportunities can be initiated by emailing Mr. Bruce Nuzum, Foundation CEO at [bnuzum@iadg.com](mailto:bnuzum@iadg.com).

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